

Departmental Short-Term and Long-Term Strategic Issues

Department: Economic Development

FY2007

Short-Term Issues:

Transportation Issues:

- The uncertainty that surrounds the Virginia Department of Transportation in terms of funding will have an impact on the County's ability to attract new businesses, in addition to expeditiously responding to the transportation needs of the business community.
- Funding needed improvements on County arterials and secondary roads will be essential to attracting new businesses, while maintaining a desirable quality of life and attractive business environment.

Inter-Regional Cooperation:

- The ability of the Roanoke & New River Valley's to function as one "mega-region" will play an important part in shaping the future of each region. Leadership for this effort must come from the economic development community.

Long-Term Issues:

Product Development:

- The need to identify, fund and develop an inventory of marketable industrial/technology sites for new business growth.

Growth Management:

- Residential growth is applying pressure on existing infrastructure capabilities, especially in Southwest County (schools, roads, etc.). It is also compromising the natural environment such as the Blue Ridge Parkway. Commercial and industrial growth is contributing to this pressure as well. A balance must be struck between growth and preservation of our natural assets.